THE ETERNALS™

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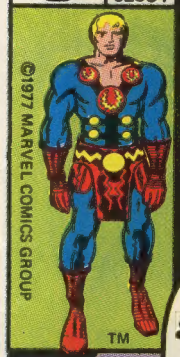
# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™



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THENA! MAKARRI! STAY BACK!! THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE ME NOW!

IKARUS TRAPPED BY

## THE THING IN THE BIG CITY CRYPT!

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Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • INKS 'N' LETTERS: MIKE ROYER • COLORING: G. WEIN • EVERYTHING ELSE: ARCHIE GOODWIN

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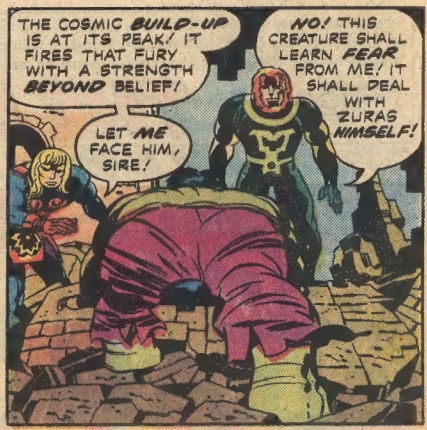
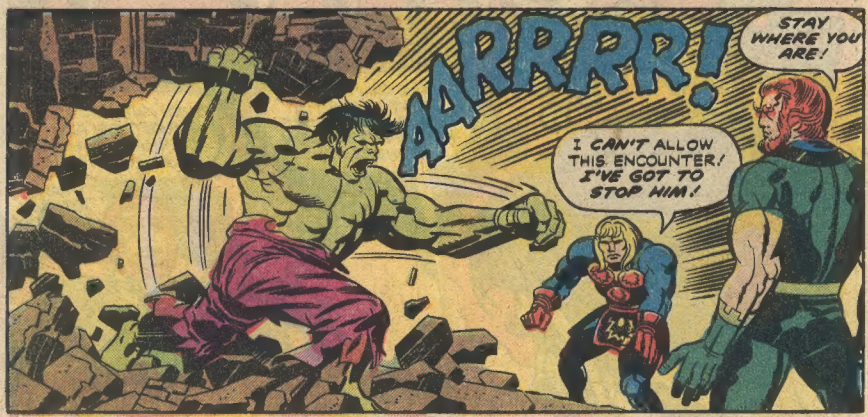
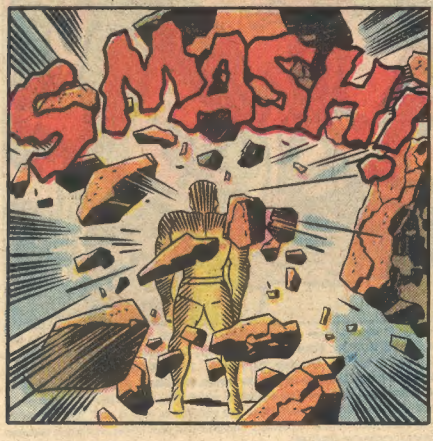
ALTHOUGH THE ELEMENTS FROM THE STARS HAVE INFILTRATED THIS PONDEROUS HULK, I SHALL QUICKLY FIND AN EXIT FOR THEM!
HE WON'T MAKE THAT EASY, SIRE! WITNESS THE FURY BEHIND THOSE EYES!


THE COSMIC BUILD-UP IS AT ITS PEAK! IT FIRES THAT FURY WITH A STRENGTH BEYOND BELIEF!
NO! THIS CREATURE SHALL LEARN FEAR FROM ME! IT SHALL DEAL WITH ZURAS HIMSELF!
LET ME FACE HIM, SIRE!


AARRRR!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
I CAN'T ALLOW THIS ENCOUNTER! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!


SMASH!

THE FOE IS PUZZLED! THOUGH HE REEKS OF THE STUFF OF STARS, HE CANNOT CONCEIVE OF A MIND WHICH CAN PRODUCE A PROTECTIVE FORCE SHIELD!
HE SHALL STILL ATTACK! SOMEHOW, HE PREVAILS!

SUDDENLY, THE ARMS OF GREAT ZURAS LASH OUT AND GRIP THE SHOULDER BLADES OF THE GREEN MENACE...

TO PREVAIL AGAINST ZURAS IS A VAIN EFFORT FOR THIS CREATURE!

I SHALL NOW RELIEVE HIM OF THE MYSTERY HE WAS NOT MEANT TO BEAR!

SSSSS!

BEHOLD THE FLIGHT OF COSMIC MATTER FROM THE VESSEL IN WHICH IT WAS TRAPPED BY A WHIM OF FATE!

THE PSEUDO-HULK FLAILS AT THE BRIGHT CLOUD OF ESCAPING ENERGY AS IF HE WERE BESET BY DEVILS...

SSSSS

THUS IT BEGINS. THE POWER THAT SHATTERED A CITY WILL SOON BE GONE!

MAY THE WISDOM AND POWER OF ZURAS REMAIN FOR ALL TIME!

TORN BY FRIGHT, THE HULK LEAPS ACROSS THE CITY LIKE A FLAMING COMET...

YIELD NOT TO THE CALM OF FALSE SECURITY, IKARIS! THE DANGER IS FAR FROM OVER!

I UNDERSTAND, SIRE. STILL... THE CREATURE DRAINED OF ITS COSMIC ENERGY WILL BE LESS FORMIDABLE!



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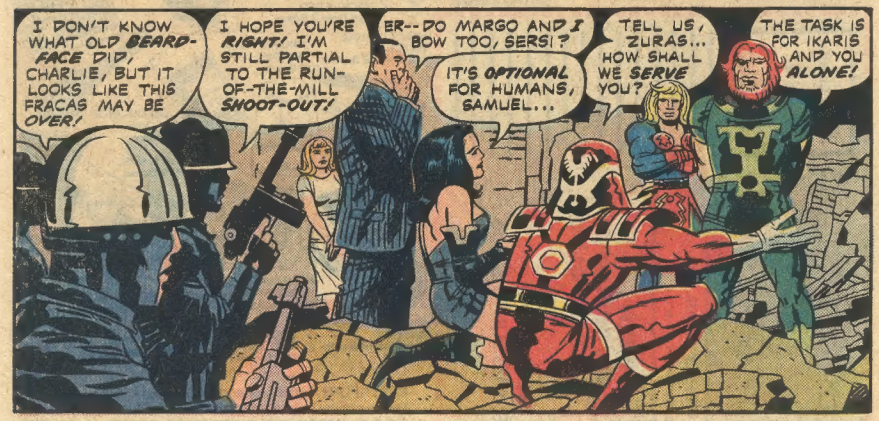
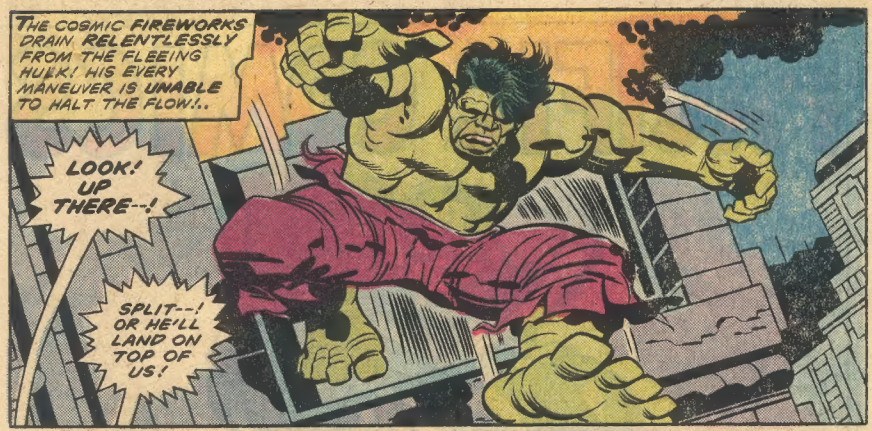
I'M CERTAIN THAT HE CAN THUS BE SUBJECTED TO A POINT OF SUFFICIENT RESTRAINT!
I CHARGE YOU TO SEE THAT IT IS DONE! FIND MAKARR! AND TAKE TO THE TASK AT ONCE!

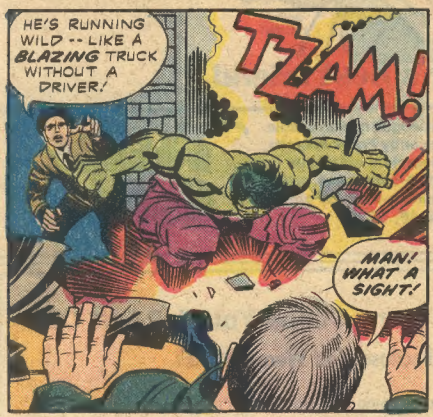
IF GREAT ZURAS COMMANDS, THEN WHO BUT MAKARR! IS EVER FIRST TO RESPOND?
--AND WHO BUT FAITHFUL SERS! IS EVER GRATEFUL FOR THE RETURN OF MORE OPTIMISTIC TIMES?
PARTIES ARE FOREVER ON HER MIND!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT OLD BEARD-FACE DID, CHARLIE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS FRACAS MAY BE OVER!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M STILL PARTIAL TO THE RUN-OF-THE-MILL SHOOT-OUT!
ER--DO MARGO AND I BOW TOO, SERS!?
IT'S OPTIONAL FOR HUMANS, SAMUEL...
TELL US, ZURAS... HOW SHALL WE SERVE YOU?
THE TASK IS FOR IKARIS AND YOU ALONE!

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE FINAL SUBJECTION OF THE HULK MUST BE SEEN TO AT ONCE!
OVERTAKE HIM AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT THIS ENDS WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT!

MEANWHILE...
THERE'S THE HULK, ARTHUR! HE'S LEAPING FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING!
HE'S SHOOTING OFF FIREWORKS!!



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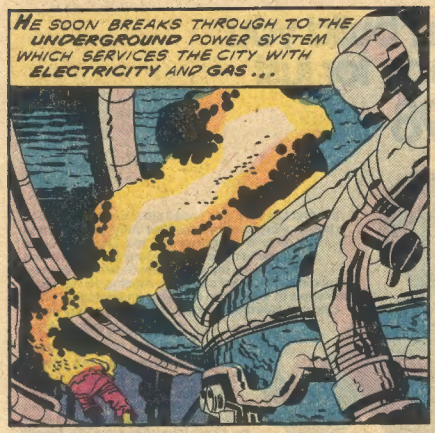
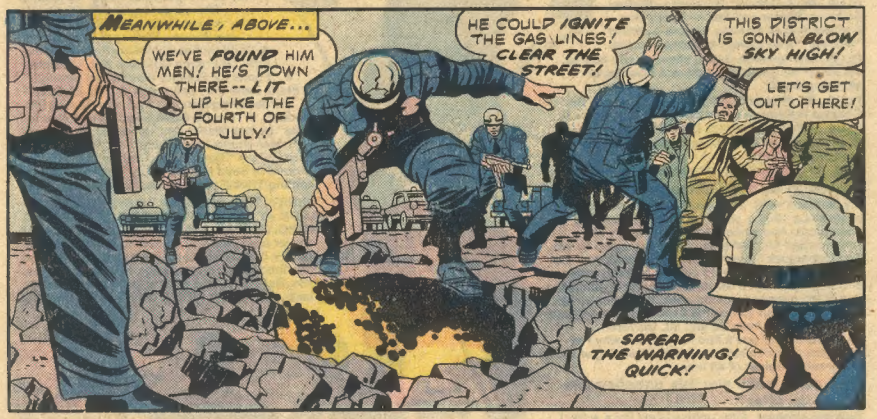
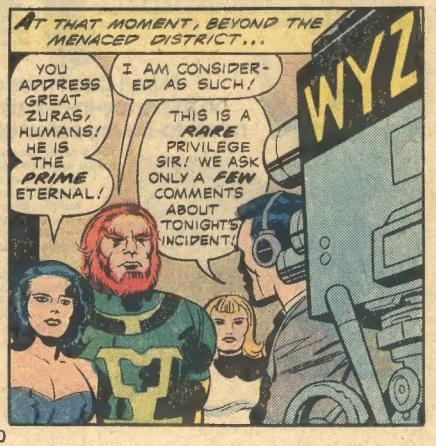

HE SOON BREAKS THROUGH TO THE UNDERGROUND POWER SYSTEM WHICH SERVICES THE CITY WITH ELECTRICITY AND GAS...

BUT THE FIERY PLAGUE NEVER LEAVES HIM... ALTHOUGH HE GROWS WEAKER AND CRAWLS TO ESCAPE, HIS ATTEMPT IS FRUITLESS...


MEANWHILE, ABOVE...
WE'VE FOUND HIM MEN! HE'S DOWN THERE-- LIT UP LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY!
HE COULD IGNITE THE GAS LINES! CLEAR THE STREET!
THIS DISTRICT IS GONNA BLOW SKY HIGH!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
SPREAD THE WARNING! QUICK!

GO HOME! GO HOME! THIS AREA IS IN DANGER!
THERE'S NEVER A TAXI IN SIGHT WHEN YA NEED ONE!


AT THAT MOMENT, BEYOND THE MENACED DISTRICT...
YOU ADDRESS GREAT ZURAS, HUMANS! HE IS THE PRIME ETERNAL!
I AM CONSIDERED AS SUCH!
THIS IS A RARE PRIVILEGE SIR! WE ASK ONLY A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT TONIGHT'S INCIDENT!
WYZ

LET 'EM ALL SPEAK!
WHO'S THE FROSTY GUY WITH THE GLASSES?
-ER--MY NAME IS SAMUEL HOLDEN. I-I'M--
HE'S NOT AN ETERNAL. BUT, I FIND HIM A MOST INTRIGUING HUMAN!
THERE ARE HUMANS IN OUR GROUP--AND THEY HAVE SEEN THE WONDERS OF OUR CITY OF OLYMPIA.
HUMANS AND ETERNALS MUST HEREIN BE AS ONE!
MARGO DAMIAN, AS A MEMBER OF THEIR PARTY, CAN YOU TELL US WHY THE ETERNALS STRESS THIS ISSUE?
WYZB

AND IN EVERY HOME...
WE INTEND TO EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE IMPORTANT TO OUR MUTUAL WELFARE!
AS YOU MUST REALIZE, THE ETERNALS KNOW SECRETS WHICH THE AGES HAVE DENIED YOU!
WHATEVER IS HE LEADING UP TO, FRED?
LET'S HEAR HIM OUT!
WILL THIS BE OVER SOON, MOMMY?

I HOPE SO... THE DREADFUL HAPPENINGS IN THESE PAST FEW HOURS HAVE KEPT US CHAINED TO THIS APARTMENT!
THINGS WILL WORK OUT, DARLING... LISTEN!
--UNTIL THESE SECRETS CAN BE SAFELY REVEALED, WE ASK YOUR TRUST AND YOUR PATIENCE!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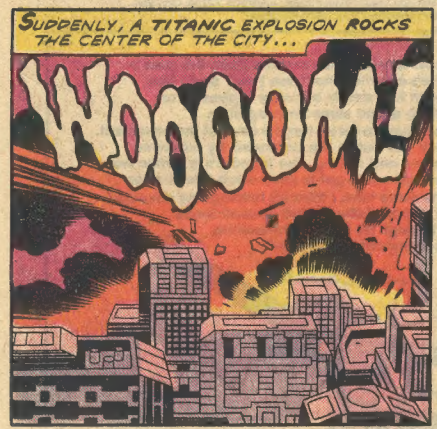
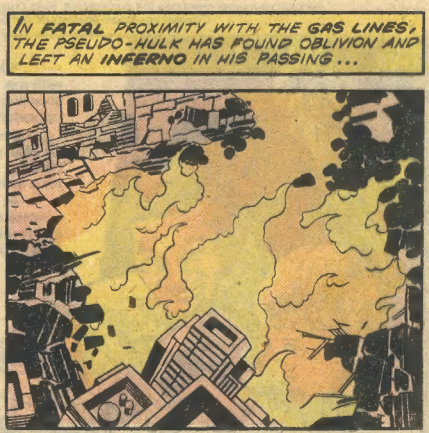
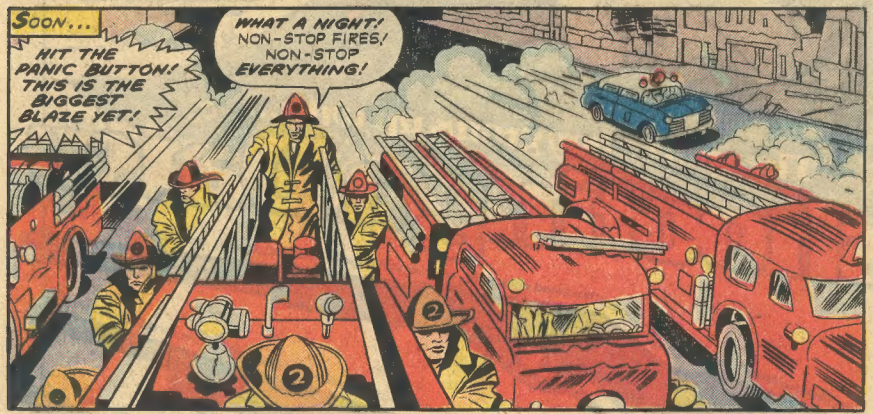
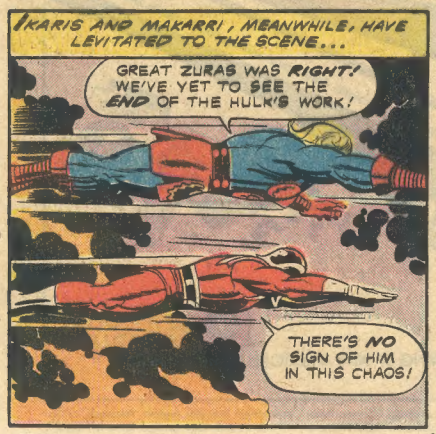

SUDDENLY, A TITANIC EXPLOSION ROCKS THE CENTER OF THE CITY...
WOOOOM!


IN FATAL PROXIMITY WITH THE GAS LINES, THE PSEUDO-HULK HAS FOUND OBLIVION AND LEFT AN INFERNO IN HIS PASSING...


SOON...
HIT THE PANIC BUTTON! THIS IS THE BIGGEST BLAZE YET!
WHAT A NIGHT! NON-STOP FIRES, NON-STOP EVERYTHING!

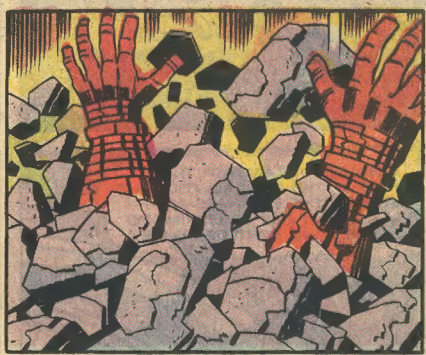

IKARIS AND MAKARRI, MEANWHILE, HAVE LEVITATED TO THE SCENE...
GREAT ZURAS WAS RIGHT! WE'VE YET TO SEE THE END OF THE HULK'S WORK!
THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM IN THIS CHAOS!

PERHAPS HE PERISHED IN THE EXPLOSION! IT'S NOT A DISPLEASING THOUGHT!
WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN OF THAT! REMEMBER OUR TASK...

SEE THERE, MAKARRI--! THE GROUND MOVES AND BREAKS BEFORE US!
IT'S AS IF SOME GREAT BURROWING ANIMAL IS ACTIVE BELOW THE SURFACE!

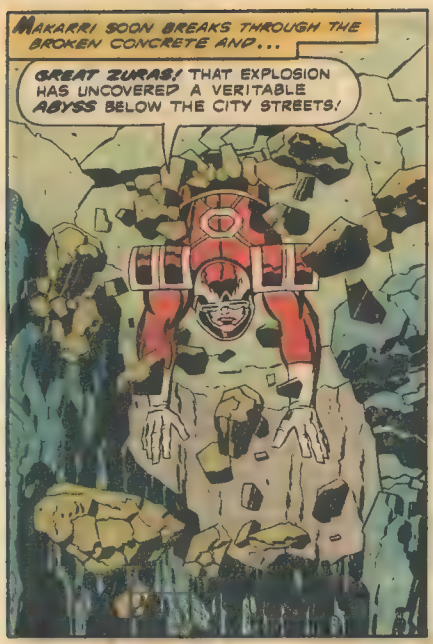
I FEAR THAT WE'VE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF THE HULK!
WILL NOTHING STOP THAT CURSED THING?!
K-K-KRAK!

WHAT'S WRONG, IKARIS?! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR FOOTING?
QUICKLY, MAKARRI! MY LEG'S BEEN-- SEIZED!


BEFORE MAKARRI CAN REACH HIM, HIS COMPANION IS YANKED FROM SIGHT...

IKARIS!!
IKARIS!
BY THE GODS!!!

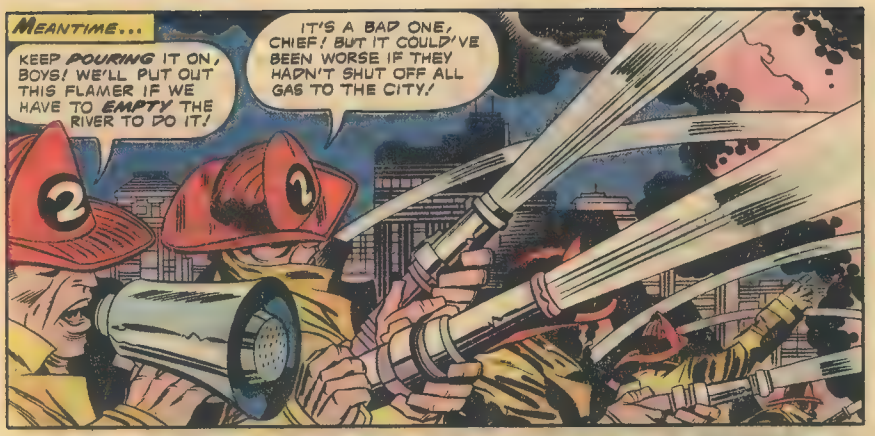
I'LL SOON GET TO THE SOURCE OF THIS FOUL PLAY! IN THIS TASK, THE TRIALS OF IKARIS ARE ALSO MINE!!

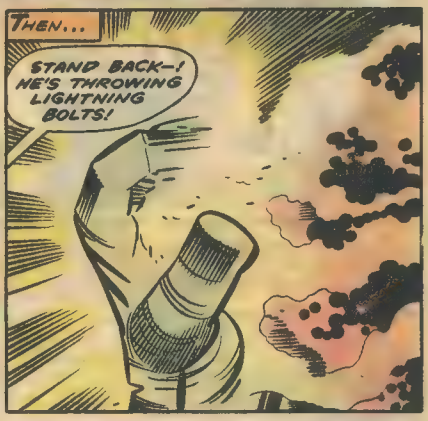

MAKARRI SOON BREAKS THROUGH THE BROKEN CONCRETE AND...
GREAT ZURAS! THAT EXPLOSION HAS UNCOVERED A VERITABLE ABYSS BELOW THE CITY STREETS!

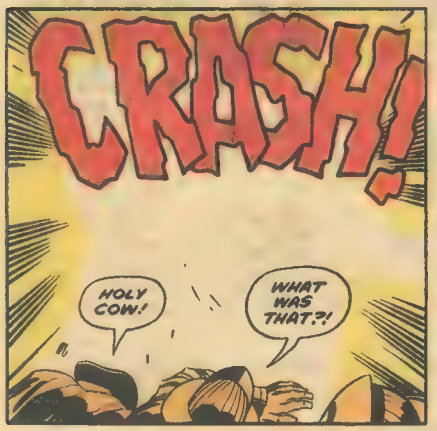
DESCENDING SWIFTLY INTO THE DEPTHS, MAKARRI MAKES AN EVEN MORE ASTONISHING DISCOVERY...
THIS SHAFT WAS NOT CARVED BY NATURE! SOMEWHERE IN THE ANCIENT PAST, MANY HANDS NOW STILLED BY TIME WERE PUT TO WORK TO SHAPE THIS ENIGMA!

I RECALL A LEGEND THAT EXISTS IN THE DARK RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ETERNALS AND DEVIANTS! IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME SORT OF TOMB!
--AND THIS GARGANTUAN METAL DOOR! IT TOO IS OF A LEGENDARY ORIGIN! IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO BE OPENED!

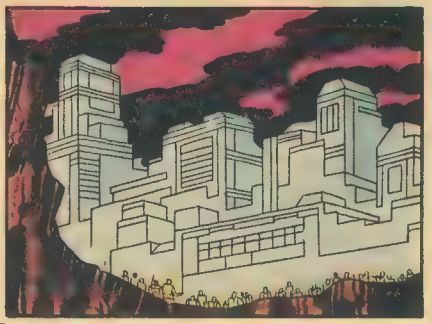
YET, I FIND IT--AJAR! WHO COULD HAVE--?!
I COULD HAVE OPENED IT! AND I DID!!

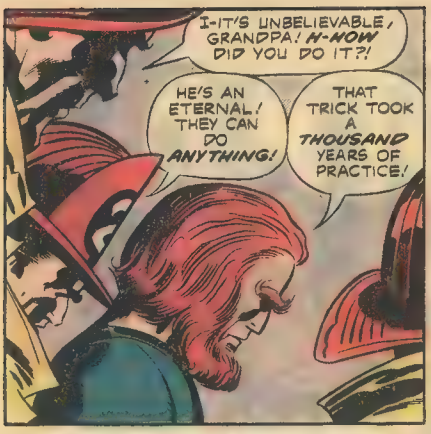


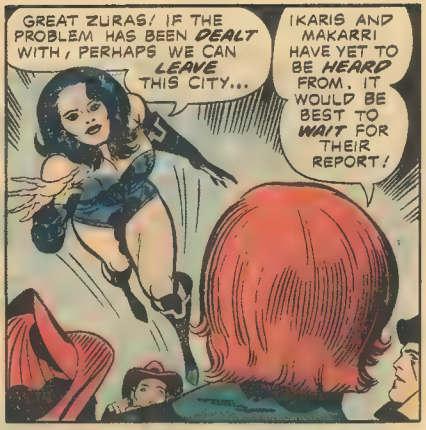


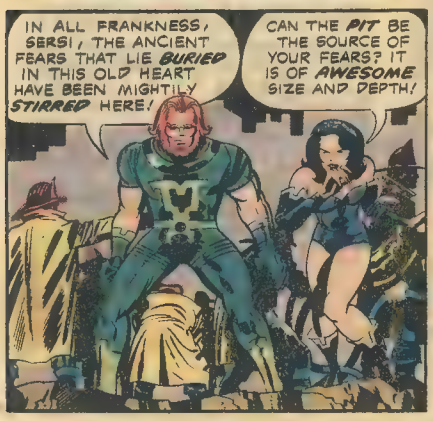



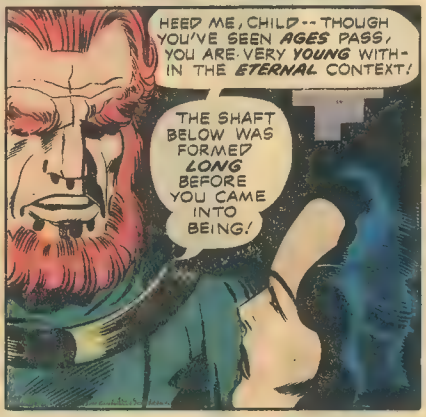

THE COUNTER-BLOW LASTS ONLY SECONDS. IT SNUFFS OUT THE FIERY HOLOCAUST AND IS GONE. A MOTIONLESS CROWD STANDS IN STUNNED SILENCE AT THE EDGE OF ALL THAT IS LEFT: A HUGE, DARK, GAPING PIT...

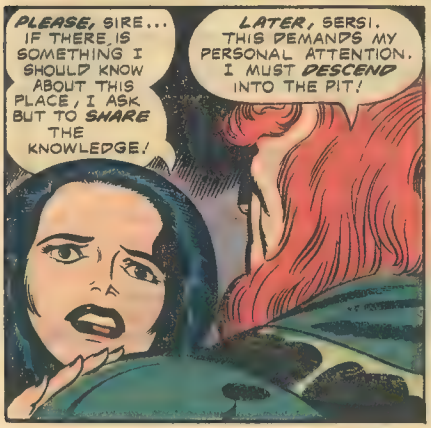



I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, GRANDPA! H-HOW DID YOU DO IT?!
HE'S AN ETERNAL! THEY CAN DO ANYTHING!
THAT TRICK TOOK A THOUSAND YEARS OF PRACTICE!


GREAT ZURAS! IF THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN DEALT WITH, PERHAPS WE CAN LEAVE THIS CITY...
IKARIS AND MAKARRI HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM. IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT FOR THEIR REPORT!


IN ALL FRANKNESS, SERSI, THE ANCIENT FEARS THAT LIE BURIED IN THIS OLD HEART HAVE BEEN MIGHTILY STIRRED HERE!
CAN THE PIT BE THE SOURCE OF YOUR FEARS? IT IS OF AWESOME SIZE AND DEPTH!


HEED ME, CHILD -- THOUGH YOU'VE SEEN AGES PASS, YOU ARE VERY YOUNG WITHIN THE ETERNAL CONTEXT!
THE SHAFT BELOW WAS FORMED LONG BEFORE YOU CAME INTO BEING!

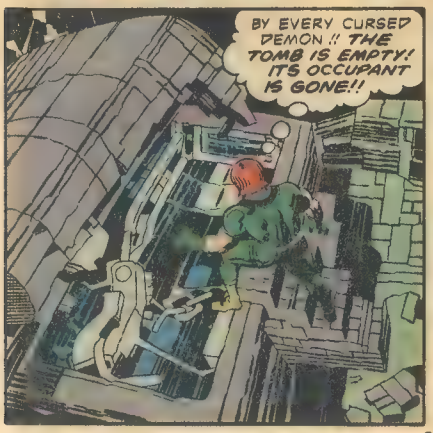

PLEASE, SIRE... IF THERE IS SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE, I ASK BUT TO SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE!
LATER, SERSI. THIS DEMANDS MY PERSONAL ATTENTION. I MUST DESCEND INTO THE PIT!

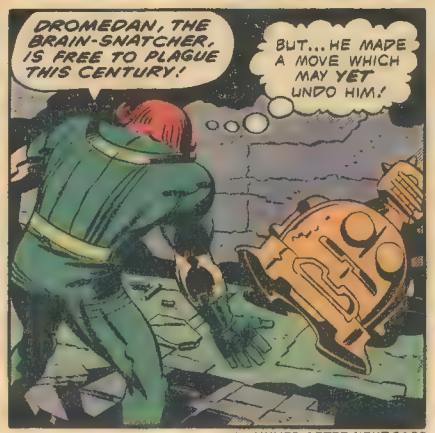
LET ME GO WITH YOU! I WOULD ALSO SHARE THE MYSTERY IN ITS DEPTHS!
I ORDER YOU TO JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND WAIT FOR MY RETURN! DO AS I COMMAND!

ZURAS DRIFTS STEADILY DOWNWARD FOR HUNDREDS OF FEET... UNTIL...

MY WORST FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED! THE CRYPT IS HERE, AS I EXPECTED--AND TORN OPEN BY THE EXPLOSION!

SPURRED BY RISING PANIC, ZURAS HURRIES ON, AS HE LEVITATES HUGE BOULDERS FROM HIS PATH...



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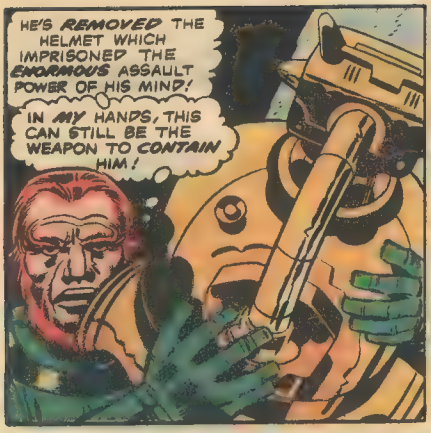
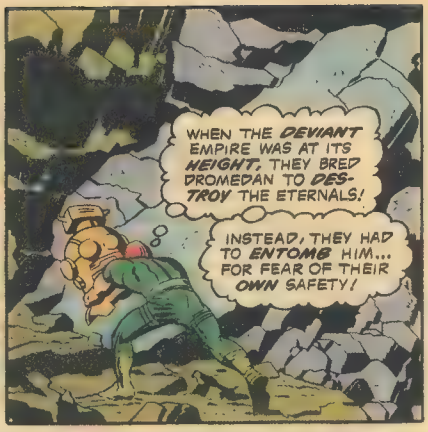
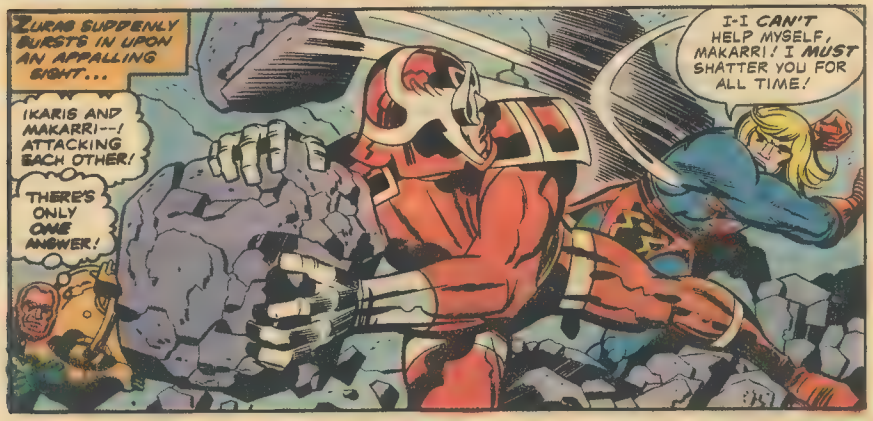
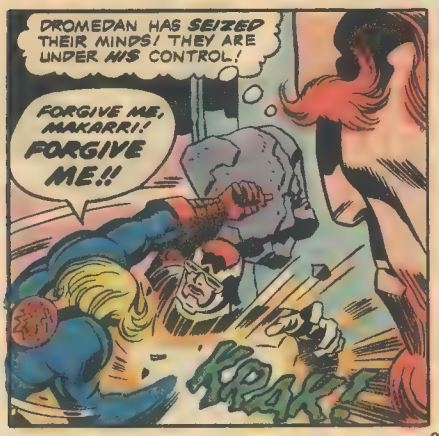
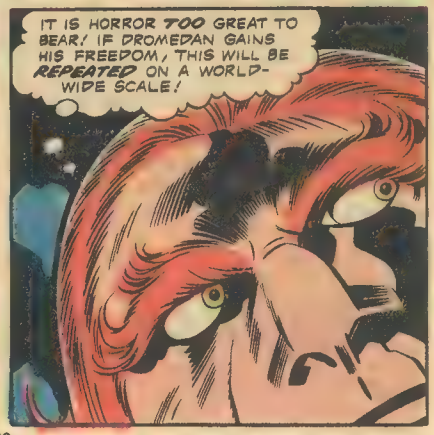
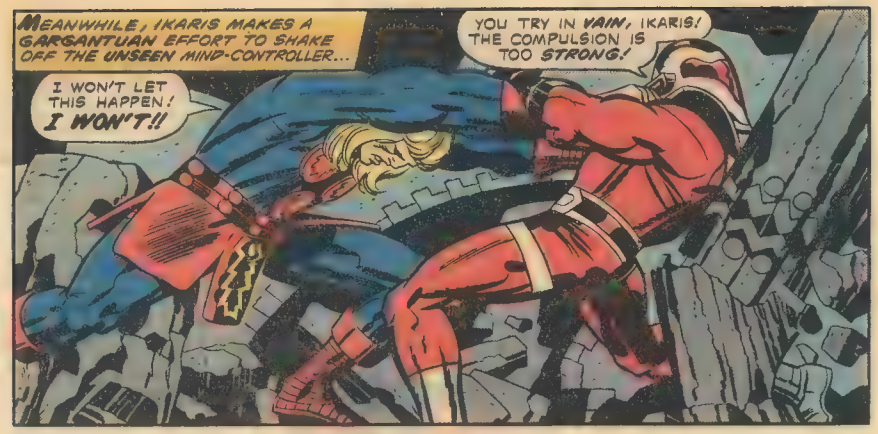

HE'S REMOVED THE HELMET WHICH IMPRISONED THE ENORMOUS ASSAULT POWER OF HIS MIND!
IN MY HANDS, THIS CAN STILL BE THE WEAPON TO CONTAIN HIM!

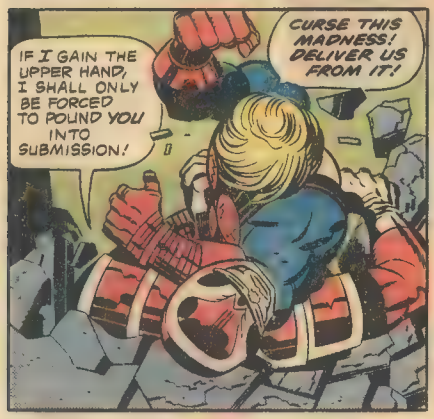

WHEN THE DEVIANT EMPIRE WAS AT ITS HEIGHT, THEY BRED DROMEDAN TO DESTROY THE ETERNALS!
INSTEAD, THEY HAD TO ENTOMB HIM... FOR FEAR OF THEIR OWN SAFETY!

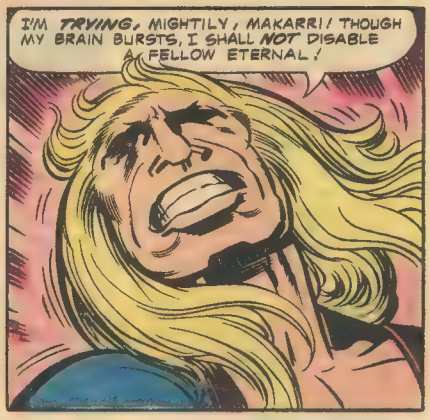

ZURAS SUDDENLY BURSTS IN UPON AN APPALLING SIGHT...
IKARIS AND MAKARRI--! ATTACKING EACH OTHER!
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER!
I-I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, MAKARRI! I MUST SHATTER YOU FOR ALL TIME!

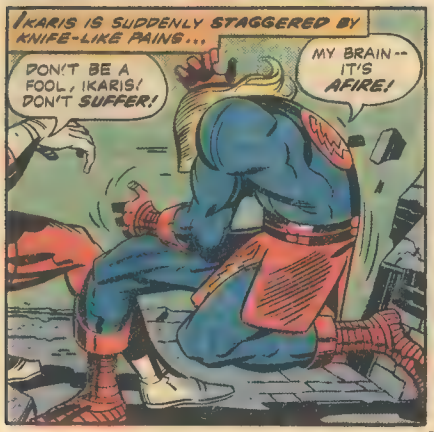

DROMEDAN HAS SEIZED THEIR MINDS! THEY ARE UNDER HIS CONTROL!
FORGIVE ME, MAKARRI! FORGIVE ME!!
KRAK!

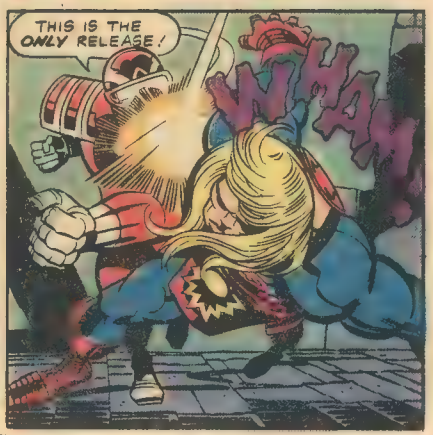

IT IS HORROR TOO GREAT TO BEAR! IF DROMEDAN GAINS HIS FREEDOM, THIS WILL BE REPEATED ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE!



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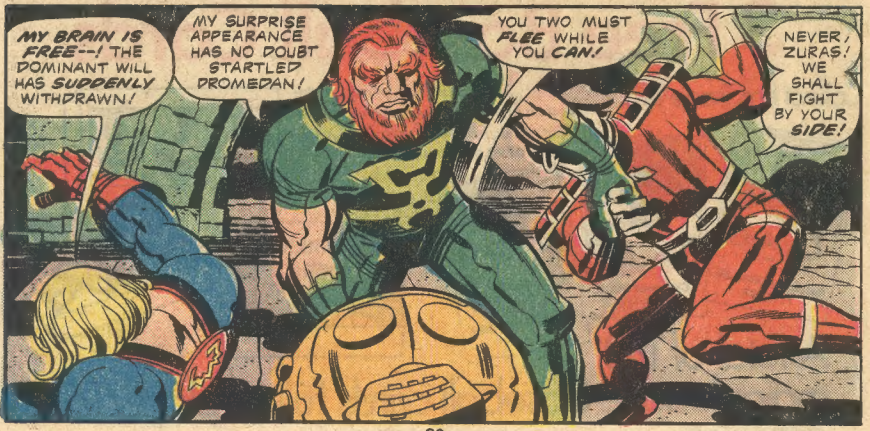
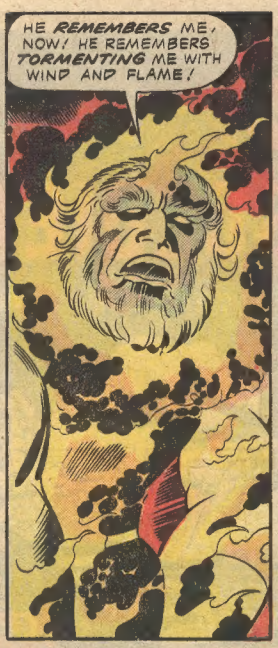
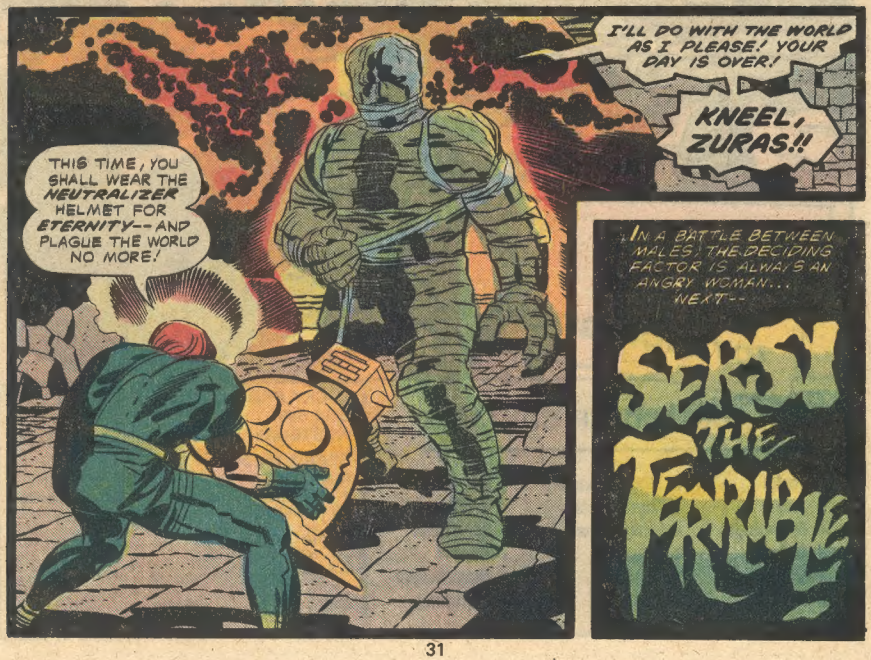
DESPITE HIS DESPERATE INNER STRUGGLE, MAKARRI RAISES HIS KNOTTED FIST...



AT THAT MOMENT, A VIOLENT GUST OF WIND STRIKES ZURAS...
STAND BACK! I MUST FACE DROMEDAN-- ALONE!


HE REMEMBERS ME, NOW! HE REMEMBERS TORMENTING ME WITH WIND AND FLAME!

--AND TURNING ME TO STONE WAS ANOTHER MOVE THAT FAILED! MY LONE RESISTANCE TAUGHT HIM FEAR!
COME OUT, DROMEDAN! YOUR NEMESIS AWAITS YOU ONCE MORE!!


I'LL DO WITH THE WORLD AS I PLEASE! YOUR DAY IS OVER!
KNEEL, ZURAS!!
THIS TIME, YOU SHALL WEAR THE NEUTRALIZER HELMET FOR ETERNITY--AND PLAGUE THE WORLD NO MORE!
IN A BATTLE BETWEEN MALES, THE DECIDING FACTOR IS ALWAYS AN ANGRY WOMAN... NEXT--
SERSI THE TERRIBLE

# ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Jack,

As a series, ETERNALS is far different from anything I've ever read in comics. In this book, events move at a much slower pace, because there is so much activity on so many levels. This is obviously a purposeful step on your part, and it's one which I find refreshing. ETERNALS is a comic of another mold, both because of the basic premise, and the way in which it is carried out from issue to issue. The Uni-Mind featured in issue #12 was a startlingly different concept. And it became all the more interesting from the fact that two of its components were human. Thus the final link between Eternal and Man is joined! Also intriguing this time out was the interaction between Karkas and the Reject.

Each issue of ETERNALS builds on facts presented in preceding stories and adds new threads to the ever-expanding plotline. And I enjoy that.

Bill Dickenson
5930 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55428

Jack:

I wish the idiots would stop complaining that ETERNALS violates the Marvel Universe—whatever *that* is! If the Marvel Universe is so self-constricting as to not allow new concepts, then it's outlived its usefulness. Actually, the Celestials would be a nice way to explain the various humanlike aliens in the Marvel Universe, such as the Kree or the Silver Surfer's race. They, too, might be a product of Celestial tampering. Parallel evolution seems a dubious, so it is very likely that the natives of Hala and Zenn-La resemble Terrans so much because they, too, are Celestial experiments. Nor does the Deviant Lemuria contradict the one in SUB-MARINER. It is obvious that, just as the blue-skinned water-breathers settled on the remains of Kull's Atlantis to found Sub-Mariner's race, another branch of that race settled on the remains of the first Lemuria. Doubtless the water-breathing Lemurians know of the Deviants and keep a wary peace.

Al Schroeder
2207 Old Hickory Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37215

**We appreciate your extensive observations, Al, and regret that the day of the luxurious two-page lettercol seems to be behind us forever. But we did want to include your comments about the "Marvel Universe Controversy" still occasionally taking place on this page. We'll reserve our comments, and leave your conclusions open for discussion by all the vast legions of Marveldom Assembled.**

**Waddaya say, gang?**

Dear Marvel,

The level of sophistication in both plotting and scripting in ETERNALS #12 stunned me! Jack Kirby's talents as a writer have never really impressed me a whole lot. I've always considered action strips his strong point, because his roots are in the early, simplistic, action-oriented comic magazines. Yet ETERNALS #12 is proof that Kirby is finally reaching his writing peak. In the pages of ETERNALS, Kirby is just beginning to unfold a masterpiece. His writing is finally sophisticated, well-executed, and engrossing.

I read #12 twice, before realizing that I was caught-up in a comic magazine that doesn't feature a specific number of superheroes or costumed crimefighters. The star of the book is the concept; the unraveling plots and subplots are the methods of communicating that concept; the characters are tools capable of working together so perfectly that no single figure detracts from the messages being conveyed. They are all reinforcing agents for the philosophical framework that Kirby is building.

Until now, things were fairly simple: the Eternals were beautiful and good, the Deviants were ugly and evil, and we humans were stuck somewhere in between, still searching for our right place. But the addition of Karkas and "the Reject" have shed a different light upon matters, and made things much more interesting. The beautiful interplay on page 10 displays how well one panel alone can show two starkly-contrasting philosophies and offer much food-for-thought to the reader.

Uni-Mind itself is an awesome concept. There is something bizarre, almost frightening, about seeing a race of people plunge head-first into a gigantic jet of blue flame. One is reminded of the lemmings' macabre death-march into the sea. Yet it is even more awe-inspiring to think of it, not as the deaths of individuals, but as a gigantic union. Uni-Mind is a cosmic coupling of an entire people for the purpose of giving birth to something much greater than the mere total of their individual existences.

Anyway, ETERNALS #12 filled me with such enthusiasm and renewed faith that I just had to put typewriter to paper. Mr. Kirby, your writing abilities are reaching full fruition. Now you've truly come back home!

That's all.

Mike Christiansen
704 S. Third Street
Rockford, IL 61108

**That is, indeed, about all the space we have for enthusiastic utterings *in re* the Eternals, at least for this month. Take care, stay aware and be-bop back here for more thrills and chills, in just thirty dynamic days!**

scanned by *Wizard*